

The Child of Light.

BY CHARLES EUGENE BANKS.



BORN in a manger
at Bethlehem.

Thorny the path He trod,
Mournfully heavy the cross He bore,
Heir to the wisdom of God.

Mournfully heavy the cross He bore,
Broken and steep the way,
Dearest His mess: go because of pain,
Light of the world to-day.

Dearest His message because of pain,
Like by its like caressed,
Gracious as rain to the sun-dried plain,
Millions those tears have blest.

Gracious as rain to the sun-dried plain
Turning the dull earth bright,
Truth is in blossom because of Him,
Ring in the Child of Light.

Truth is in blossom because of Him,
Sin is grown old and gray,
Welcome the gladness of doing good,
Welcome the gentler way.

Welcome the gladness of doing good,
Welcome the joy of love,
Banish the serpent, the hawk and owl,
Welcome the child and dove.

Banish the serpent, the hawk and owl,
Banish the man-made creed,
Welcome the brotherhood broad, divine,
Welcome the MAN indeed.

Welcome the brotherhood broad, divine,
Banish the narrow and mean,
So shall His kingdom be over the earth—
Ring in the Nazarene.

HIS CHRISTMAS GREETING.

BY ELISA ARMSTRONG.

The cemetery gates closed with a clang behind one man as he stepped out into the snow-covered road; it was almost dark and he nearly ran into the other man who stumbled along as if very weary.

"Yonder's th' shortest way into town, isn't it?" the latter asked.

"Yep. Most folks want to know th' shortest way out," he grinned.

"I'm glad enough to get out o' where I was," muttered the other. As he lighted his pipe the flame showed his pale face.

The other man edged away. "Ye ain't been in jail?"

"Worse. Penitentiary. Ye needn't be askeered, though—I've had enough. Didn't do it, either, but, ye see, I was kind o' good for nothin', an' the judge was running for reelection, so I went up. Got out for Christmas, though, on account o' good behavior."

"Um, well, so 'tis Christmas time—folks oughtn't to be hard on nobody now."

"No. I most took ye fer a Christmas ghost a bit ago."

"Been working late. I'm a stone mason, and I'd promised a rich old party



"MARY LYONS WAS THE NAME."

to have a stone put over a child's grave by to-morrow, sure. He said he'd like her to have something for a Christmas gift."

"Poor soul! I'm better off ef he is rich. I'll see my kid to-night. My brother's been taking keer of her since I was took. I'll take her now, an' I'm bound to keep straight, for her sake, from now on. That man got any more kids?"

"None. This was only adopted; belonged to some poor relation, but he loved her like his own. Died sudden about ten days ago—he took it hard, too; said he was forty-nine and she only about ten, so he'd expected she'd choose his headstone."

"Poor soul! My girl's most ten now."

"Lemme see," he lit a match and consulted a paper as they walked along. "she was nine years, eleven months and three days old. It was a pretty stone; the boss says: 'Nothing's too good for Mary,' says he."

"Mary! Why, that's my girl's name—here, lemme see that!" The match went out and his fingers trembled so that he could not light another.

"Mary Lyons was the name," said the stone mason, gently.

"Merciful God, my own child!" cried the ex-convict.

Then, through the still night air, the glad church bells rang out.

He Was Surprised.

Mrs. Gazzam—I've got a box of cigars for my husband's Christmas present, which will surprise him.

Mrs. Maddox—Women don't know how to buy cigars for men.

Mrs. Gazzam—I know that, so I got brother Jack to get them for me.—Judge.

Bells and Bills.

Mrs. Newlywed—How I love to hear the merry Christmas bells.

Mr. Newlywed—I'd like to hear them, too, if Christmas bells were not so con-foundedly suggestive of Christmas bills.

ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE RAILROAD TIME TABLE.

In Effect August 8, 1894.

No. 806, Arrives.	DESTINATION.	No. 805, Departs.
4:00 p. m.	Silver City	10:10 a. m.
1:10 "	Deming	12:40 p. m.
12:40 "	Nutt	12:50 a. m.
11:45 a. m.	Rincon	1:40 p. m.
10:40 "	Las Cruces	3:20 "
8:05 "	El Paso	5:08 "
5:20 a. m.	Leave.	7:40 p. m.

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